A.A. Fact Sheet

The Preamble of Alcoholics Anonymous

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of people who share their experience, strength, and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions. A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization, or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy, neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

What A.A. Does

- Non-alcoholic guests are welcome at "open" A.A. meetings. Attendance at "closed" meetings is limited to those who are alcoholic or think they may have a drinking problem.
- At meetings A.A. members share their recovery with anyone seeking help with a drinking problem, and provide experience, strength and hope or "sponsorship" to the alcoholics coming to A.A.
- The A.A. program, as set forth in the Twelve Steps to recovery, offers the alcoholic a design for living that works.

What A.A. Does NOT Do

- Furnish initial motivation for alcoholics to recover… solicit members…
- Engage in or sponsor research…
- Keep attendance records or case histories…
- Join "councils" or social agencies (although A.A. members, groups and service offices frequently cooperate with them).
- Follow up or try to control its members…
- Make medical or psychological diagnoses or prognoses… provide detox, rehabilitation or nursing services, hospitalization, drugs or any medical or psychiatric treatment…
- Offer religious services, or host/sponsor retreats… engage in education about alcohol…
- Provide housing, food, clothing, jobs, money or any other welfare or social services…
- Provide domestic or vocational counseling…
- Accept any money for its services, or any contributions from non-A.A. sources…
- Provide letters of reference to parole boards, lawyers, court officials, social agencies, employers, etc.

Our recovery is based on sharing our experience, strength, and hope with each other, that we may solve our common problem; more importantly, our continued sobriety depends upon helping others to recover from alcoholism.

Reference Information:

A.A. Website

G.S.O.'s A.A. website, at www.aa.org, is available in English, French and Spanish.

The contents of the website include the following:

• A.A. Videos for Health Care, Legal and Corrections, and Employment/Human Resources Professionals.

• A link to the "For Professionals" page.

• A link to the "What is A.A.?" page.

• The full-length video "Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous" can be streamed in its entirety on the G.S.O. website.

• The A.A. General Service Conference-approved "A.A. Fact File."

• The Conference-approved pamphlets "A Message to Teenagers," "A Newcomer Asks" and "Is A.A. for You?"

• List of central offices/intergroups/answering services in U.S./Canada, and a location search feature for local A.A. offices and websites.

• List of international general service offices.

• Anonymity letter and a video to the media.

• Information on A.A. (service piece).

• About A.A., a newsletter for professionals. Current and past issues can be viewed and printed out. "Digital Delivery" subscription sign-up available.

• A link to AA Grapevine website.

Literature Guide

Here is an expanded list of A.A. information in three categories: basic guidance for members of committees; information useful for professionals; and literature for the people professionals serve. This material is available in English, French and Spanish, and can be viewed on the A.A. G.S.O. website at www.aa.org.

Committee Members:

Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings (P-40)

Understanding Anonymity (P-47)

Information on Alcoholics

Anonymous (F-2)

A.A. Membership Survey (P-48)

How A.A. Members Cooperate. . . (P-29)

A Member's-Eye View of A.A. (P-41)

Many Paths to Spirituality (P-84)

A.A. as a Resource for Drug & Alcohol

Court Professionals (F-177)

A.A. Cooperation with the Professional

Community Videos H.R./E.A.P., Legal/

Correctional and Healthcare (DV-13)

About A.A. Placard (F-24)

About A.A. Subscription Cards (F-23)

A.A. Guidelines on: C.P.C. Committees; Cooperating with Courts, D.W.I. & Similar Programs; Relationship Between A.A. and Al-Anon; For A.A. Members Employed in the Alcoholism Field; Public Information Committees; Accessibility for All Alcoholics.

<u>For Professionals</u>

Understanding Anonymity (P-47)

If You Are a Professional… (P-46)

Members of the Clergy Ask About A.A. (P-25)

Problems Other Than Alcohol (P-35)

Is There a Problem Drinker in the Workplace? (P-54)

This Is A.A. (P-1)

A.A. In Your Community (P-31)

A.A. as a Resource for the Health Care

Professional (P-23)

Access to A.A. (P-83)

A.A. Membership Survey (P-48)

A Message to Corrections Professionals (P-20)

Information on Alcoholics Anonymous (F-2)

A.A. as a Resource for Drug & Alcohol Court Professionals (F-177)

A.A. Cooperation with the Professional Community Videos H.R./E.A.P., Legal/ Correctional and Healthcare (DV-13)

Many Paths to Spirituality (P-84)

A.A. Members — Medications and Other Drugs (P-11)

About A.A. (F-13)

For the People Professionals Serve

A.A. at a Glance (F-1)

This Is A.A. (P-1)

Is A.A. For Me? (P-36)

A Brief Guide to A.A. (P-42)

Too Young? (P-37)

Do You Think You're Different? (P-13)

Is There an Alcoholic in Your Life? (P-30)

Problems Other than Alcohol (P-35)

A Message to Teenagers (F-9)

Access to A.A. (P-83)

Is A.A. For You? (P-3)

A.A. and the Armed Services (F-50)

Frequently Asked Questions About A.A. (P-2)

A.A. for the Older Alcoholic —Never Too Late (P-22)

A.A. Members — Medications and Other Drugs (P-11)

A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic (P-51)

LGBTQ Alcoholics in A.A. (P-32)

A.A. for the Native North American (P-21)

Women in A.A. (P-5)

The "God" Word: Atheist and Agnostic Members in A.A. (P-86)

A.A. for Alcoholics with Mental Health Issues (P-87)

A.A. Grapevine, La Viña and La Vigne

Videos: Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous; A New Freedom; Carrying the Message Behind

These Walls; Your A.A. General Service Office, the Grapevine, and the General Service

Structure; A.A. Videos for Young People.

These publications are all listed, with brief descriptions and prices, in the Conference approved Literature and Other Service Material catalog, which also includes literature for those facing accessibility challenges. There is also a catalog of Grapevine material, including La Viña.